



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil

Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	MVK-2004-447
EVALUATOR:	Anne Woerner
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DATE:	September 21, 2005
EXPIRATION DATE:	October 12, 2005

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District is considering a proposal to establish a wetland mitigation bank in Madison County, Mississippi. A prospectus describing the proposed bank has been received from Big Black Mitigation Bank, L.L.C., the bank Sponsor. The mitigation bank site is located in sections 25, 26, 35, and 36, Township 12 North, Range 3 East (enclosure).

Description: This wetland mitigation bank is being proposed by the bank Sponsor as a means to meet the requirements for compensatory mitigation for future and as yet unknown wetland losses, which may be permitted by the Corps under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The bank Sponsor proposes to develop a wetland mitigation bank by restoring/enhancing 159 acres of bottomland hardwoods wetlands and the inclusion of approximately 32 acres of non-wetland buffer. The restoration and enhancement of the 191-acre area will increase wetland function, provide species diversity, and increase the width of a wildlife corridor along the Big Black River.

Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions:

Approximately 163 acres of the mitigation bank site has been delineated as jurisdictional wetlands. Four acres of wetlands will be food plots and will not be part of the mitigation bank. Approximately 17.6 acres of the delineated wetland area is comprised of 2 to 3 year old planted loblolly pine. The majority of delineated wetlands, approximately 87.6 acres, is comprised of pasture currently used for cattle grazing. The remaining wetlands, approximately 57.8 acres, is comprised of dense shrub/wooded wetlands. Approximately 32.0 acres of the mitigation bank consists of a delineated non-wetland to be used for wetland/stream buffer. The delineated non-wetland is currently vegetated with mature trees and shrubs. Two

intermittent streams are located within the site. The western most stream originates onsite from a small stock pond. This stream has shallow banks and transects the open pasture for approximately 1,795 linear feet. The eastern most stream has steep banks and flows north transecting the site for approximately 2,991 linear feet. Four stock ponds are located within the delineated wetland area. The four stock ponds combine for a total of 1 acre.

One gas line easement transects the western portion of the site near Highway 51. This easement runs north/south through the planted loblolly pine wetland area. Barbed-wire fence is located along the parameter of the site and within the interior, providing cross-fencing of pasture areas. Cross-fencing will be removed from site. A cattle catch pin is located within delineated non-wetlands adjacent to Highway 17.

Mapped soil types within the site consist of Calhoun silt loam (Ca), Calloway silt loam (CbA), Ariel silt loam (Ar), Gillsburg silt loam (Gb), and Grenada silt loam (GrA). Calhoun is listed as a hydric soil. Calloway, Ariel, and Gillsburg are listed as hydric inclusive soils. A "low" chroma matrix is found throughout delineated wetland areas.

Delineated wetland areas are relatively flat with very little elevation relief. The majority of topographical relief is located with the eastern and extreme southern portions of the site, delineated non-wetlands.

The mitigation bank site is bordered to the west by Highway 51 and to the north by Highway 17. Property located to the north of the site adjacent to Highway 17 is currently placed in the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Row crops and loblolly pine plantation border the site to the east. Open pasture (wetland and non-wetland) borders the site to the south.

The Mitigation Bank will consist of a total of 191 acres and includes restoration/enhancement of 159.0 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands and the inclusion of approximately 32.0 acres of non-wetland buffer. Access to the site will meander between the 12-foot spacing of seedlings. Approximately 102.2 acres of wetlands (planted pine and pasture) will be bush hogged for site preparation. This wetland area will be planted with a variety of native bottomland hardwood species at 12 x 12 foot spacing or 302 seedlings per acre.

One seasonal/shallow water pond (approximately 3 acres) will be created within the pasture area. This pond will be created by placing a low earthen dam across the shallow banked intermittent stream. The amount and duration of inundation will be controlled by a valve located at the dam location. This pond area will be planted with herbaceous species during the summer and flooded

during the winter to provide nesting and food source for migratory waterfowl.

The remaining 56.8 acres of wetland is comprised of dense shrub/wooded areas. Older growth within this community is comprised of approximately 15 to 20 year old green ash and sweet gum. Shrub species include green ash, water oak, and Chinese privet. This area will be thinned to allow for introduction of mast producing species. Thinning will be performed in such a manner to cause the least amount of ground disturbance as possible (stumps will not be removed). Mast producing species such as oaks will comprise at least 40% of the target 150 stems per acre. An initial 12 x 12 foot planting will be used for areas thinned with a plan for the Sponsor to later thin the trees as they grow to a random 20 x 20 foot spacing to allow for growth.

Approximately 32.0 acres of delineated non-wetland will remain in present condition except for limited enhancement. Management for exotic species such as Chinese tallow-tree may be necessary. Other mast producing species may be added in areas where trees are thin or where blow-down has occurred.

Service Area: This Mitigation Bank will be established to provide mitigation to compensate for impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands, within the Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District. This area is demarcated by the United States Geologic Survey as hydrologic unit codes 0806201, 0806202, 0806203, 0806204, 0806205, and 0806206 within the Big Black River Basin (080602).

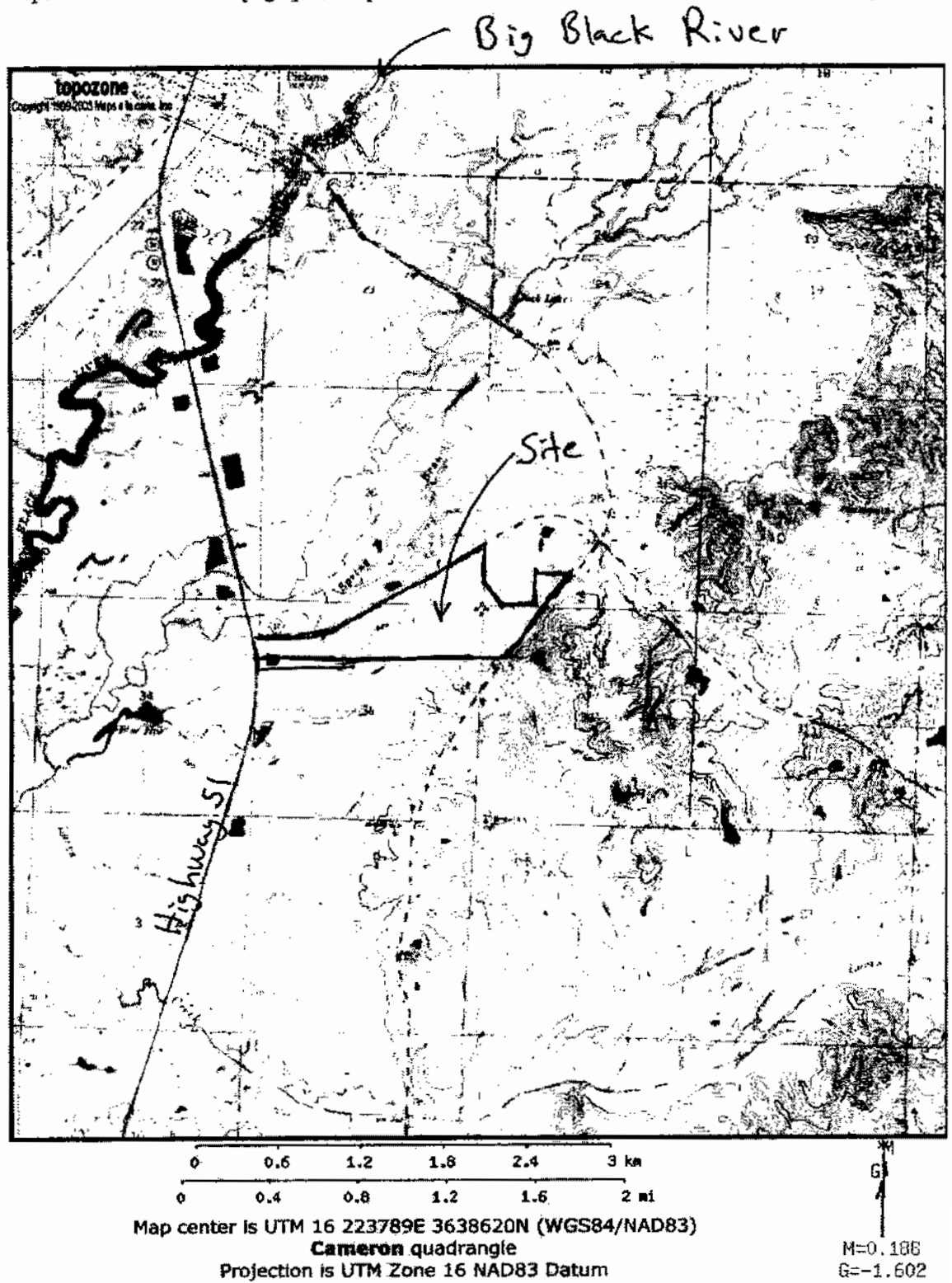
The prospectus, which outlines the conceptual plan for the bank, is available for review at the Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers at the address given below.

Comments on this proposed mitigation bank may be provided to the Corps at the address below. Comments should be received no later than the expiration date of this public notice.

Please provide comments to:

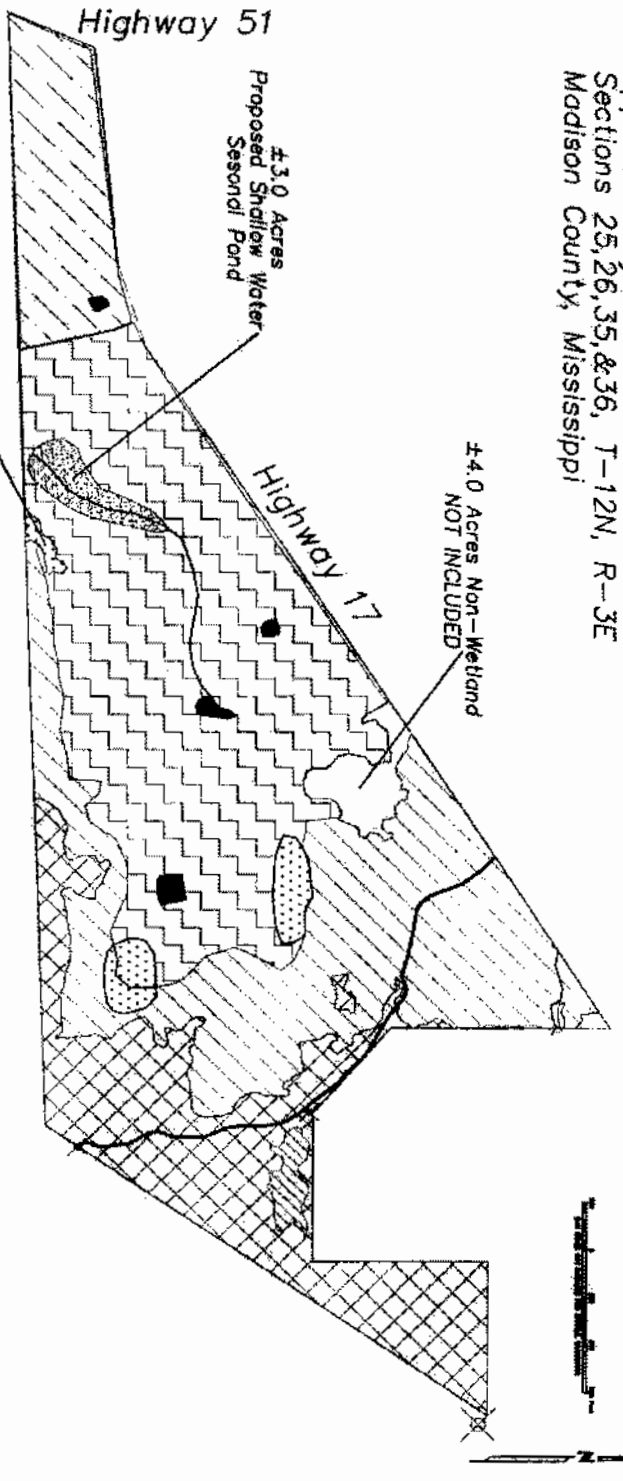
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3485

W. Harold Lee
Team Leader
Evaluation Section



BIG BLACK MITIGATION BANK

Approximately 200.0 Acres
Sections 25, 26, 35, & 36, T-12N, R-3E
Madison County, Mississippi



±0.56 Acres Non-Wetland
NOT INCLUDED

TOTAL AREA DELINEATED AS JURISDICTIONAL
WETLAND & "OTHER WATERS OF THE U.S." WITHIN SITE
APPROXIMATELY 163.0 ACRES

PITTMAN ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES L.L.C.
P.O. Box 16296
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Project:
Big Black
Mitigation Bank
Date: 6-29-05

